

## **MBI to begin hiring**

MB Industries, LLC, (MBI) announced that it will begin accepting job applications Jan. 22 to start up manufacturing operations in the former BeairdCo facility in south Shreveport.

The Shreveport City Council approved MBI's lease on the property Jan. 13, and the company is working to bring the aging facility "up to code" as swiftly as possible.

Former BeairdCo employees are invited to apply Jan. 22 and Jan. 23. All other applicants can apply beginning Jan. 26. Applications will be accepted at the facility, located at 601 Benton Kelly St., near the intersection of I-49 and Bert Kouns Industrial Loop and via our website, [www.mbindustries.com](http://www.mbindustries.com). MBI is an open-shop and equal-opportunity employer.

MBI manufactures protective structures such as blast-resistant buildings for use in refinery blast zones. It plans to hire fabricators, electricians, plumbers, logistics, maintenance, truck drivers, security guards, and administrative personnel to begin producing its product line in Shreveport.

MBI president Fred Gossen, Jr. said that, barring occupancy problems, his company expects to have 150 to 200 Shreveport employees in the second quarter of 2009.

"In addition, we are in discussion with another company about a joint venture at our Shreveport facility," Gossen said. "Depending on the speed this is finalized and the time it takes to remedy some deferred maintenance, we could have upwards of 400 people working by year-end. Next year, employment could be as high as 700."

MBI currently fabricates and outfits its buildings in facilities in Mansfield and Rayne, as well as overseas. Gossen said MBI plans to make the new Shreveport facility its operational headquarters. Some administrative, preventive maintenance and engineering employees will be transferred to Shreveport from the other two plants.

-----